All Defence items produced by the private sector will be sold only to the Government or as inputs to the Ordnance Factories/Defence Public Sector Undertakings, except for exports.

Action Against Guilty Official of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited

3388. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 2137 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 2000, and state:

(a) the action taken so far against the concerned officers of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.;

(b) whether some union workes are being victimised for writing to CVC;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to redress grievances of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The alleged irregularities referred to in the newsitem and the CBI note against the officials of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited have been examined in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission. As no malafide was established, the matter has been closed.

(b) No union worker has been victimised for writing to CVC.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are various fora in Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. as well as in the Department of Defence Production & Supplies for the redressal of grievances of workers.

Ammunition Storage System

3389. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army authorities had sent a team of experts to England and Germany to study ammunition storage system in advanced European countries;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the team;

(c) whether Government have not implemented the recommendations;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether in view of recent accidents at various Defence storage depots, whether Government propose to implement these recommendations; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (e) A team of officers visited certain countries in Europe in 1986 to carry out a study on modernization of ammunition depots with a view to construct cost effective store houses for ammunition. The team had, *inter alia*, recommended Igloo pattern of ammunition store houses, on trial basis, at some Ammunition Depots. On investigation, it was found that the soil bearing capacity at these stations was not suitable for construction of store houses on the Igloo pattern and the initial cost of construction of Igloo type store houses was higher than the cost of conventional construction. Nonetheless the Igloo type store house was considered economical in the long run because of its longer life. Government has, therefore, decided to construct a mix of both Igloo and conventional type of store houses, keeping in view the operational requiremens, availability and suitability of land and cost justification.

Armed Equipment and Vehicles Lying Idle for want of Spares

3390. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the major armed equipment and vehicles which are lying idle for want of spares in different ordnance depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time lag involved between placing order for procurement and supply of spares; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to reduce this time lag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) Assessment of major equipments and vehicles of the Army, lying idle for want of spares in different ordnance depots is an ongoing process and actual position in this regard is closely monitored. Procurement of defence stores including spares is effected through well laid-out procedures which, *inter alia*, stipulate the time to be given to the suppliers for supplying the stores.